

SAVE MONEY WITH THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE ENERGY SWITCH

Residents are again being given the chance to cut their energy bills with the third Cambridgeshire Energy Switch scheme to be launched this year.

The Cambridgeshire Energy Switch has already taken place in February and June this year and has seen over 480 households switch their energy supplier and save an average of £207 each per year per household. That's a total collective saving of over £100,000 for Cambridgeshire residents.

Now there's another opportunity for more households to make these savings with the scheme. The more residents that sign up the better the deals are likely to be. Residents across the county may not currently be enjoying the lowest tariff available and don't know how to change suppliers or want the hassle of shopping around for the best deal.

The Cambridgeshire Energy Switch Scheme is supported by Cambridgeshire County Council and uses the collective bargaining power of residents to achieve better prices for electricity and gas to save households money. It's open to all residents on both credit and pre-payment meters.

Currently energy suppliers are only allowed to have four core tariffs per energy type, but at the end of last year it was agreed that energy suppliers can introduce a bespoke tariff (a fifth one) specifically for a collective switch and that wouldn't be available on the current energy market.

To register you will need to know who your current energy supplier is, the tariff that you are on and annual gas and/or electricity usage for your household. Registration has opened and the deadline for joining this switch is October 13, after this energy suppliers are given an opportunity to offer the collective group of residents a deal to provide their electricity and/or gas. The service is completely free of charge and there is no obligation to accept an offer.

Anyone wishing to sign up or find out more should log onto www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/switch If people do not have access to the internet they can contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 507164, or via energy.switch@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Businesses are also encouraged to register by calling 0800 188 4929 or completing the call back request form at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/switch. A business energy expert who can help determine when your business can switch and how much you can save will call you back. Businesses that have not previously been active with saving on their energy costs are thought to be paying 35% more than those that are. You can expect an independent and unbiased comparison of the energy market and it's completely free with no obligations.

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***To give your points of view on any of these issues, contact me by email at;
j.e.reynolds@ntlworld.com***

HOUSE ALARM COMPANY FINED £52,500

Kevin Powell, (34) Director of Security Hub Home Zone Ltd, along with company salesmen, Michael O'Reilly, (54 of Kidderminster) and Martin Kennedy (61 of Northfield) have received suspended sentences by Peterborough Crown Court. In addition Powell and O'Reilly have to complete 180 hours of community service. The company was fined in total £52,500 and compensation awarded to the victims of the case.

Following a case put together by Cambridgeshire County Council and Shropshire County Council Trading Standards officers the individuals pleaded guilty on 4 August to a range of offences under consumer protection regulations regarding misleading and unfair sales practices. The company also pleaded guilty to seven counts of misleading/unfair sales practices. The security company, which operates nationally, sells alarm systems through a process of cold calling and follow-up doorstep sales.

The case involved six victims from Cambridgeshire in their 70s and 80s from March, Wisbech, Eynesbury, St Ives, Hemingford Grey and Brampton. Other victims from Northamptonshire and Shropshire also formed part of the case.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said "This is an excellent result for the victims following what's been a lengthy investigation involving joint working with Shropshire County Council. The practices of this Director and salesmen have caused untold stress to their often vulnerable customers. Alongside this they have deprived honest businesses of potential work and risk damaging the reputation of this trade. We'd like to send a clear message that sales practices such as these will not be tolerated in our county.

BAR HILL PRIMARY BEATS THE FLOODS TO BE READY FOR START OF TERM

Work has been ongoing throughout the summer holiday to ensure Bar Hill Primary School was ready for the start of term following the floods in August. The school lost several classrooms to the flooding which hit Bar Hill and other areas of the county on the evening of August 8.

Since then officers from Cambridgeshire County Council have been working to clear the damage and install mobile classrooms in time for the start of the new school year. Three double mobile classrooms have been provided on site – all with full access to the curriculum and ICT. This will enable the existing permanent classrooms to be refurbished.

Two reception classes which were damaged in the floods, together with the kitchen and school hall have been cleaned, while in some areas new floors have been laid. Play areas outside the school in Gladeside have also been cleaned and play bark is being replaced. Education officers at the County Council hope the original building can be returned to the school for full use during the October half term, at which point the mobile classrooms will be removed.

Headteacher Al Mistrano said: "I am extremely grateful to staff at the school and the County Council for the work they have done to ensure the new term can start on time. I am also indebted to my predecessor Lin Whyte, who worked tirelessly throughout the holidays – right up to her retirement day of 31 August."

Bar Hill County Councillor John Reynolds added: "I have been extremely impressed with the speed at which officers acted as soon as the extent of the flooding became apparent. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the school is able to open on time and the education of the children will not be affected."

THAN JUST BOOKS IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Residents can hire DVDs and audio books at their local library with new lower charges. There are no expensive long term subscription charges either. Standard DVDs and Blu-Rays are available to hire for £2 and audio books from £1.50. Premium DVDs (available in Cambridge Central Library) are currently on special offer - £2.75 for a seven day loan.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said "Libraries are about more than just books, we stock hundreds of top DVD and Blu-Ray titles to entertain all the family - including many recent blockbusters. Audio books are a great way to experience favourite reads, or learn a new language. Many of them are read by the author themselves."

A selection of free eAudio books are also available to download at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk<<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>>

CELEBRATE THE VELO FESTIVAL AS IT COMES TO A CLOSE

The Vélo Festival – the hugely successful celebration of the Tour de France's visit to Cambridgeshire – is coming to a close at the end of September. With 135 events taking place since the Festival began in May, there has been something for everyone – from young and old to the very active or those just getting to grips with riding a bike.

The programme brought thousands of people together from large scale events like the cycling activities with British Cycling at Big Weekend in Cambridge to smaller scale themed activity days such as Ely museum craft or the Fen Edge MaxExodus family ride. With the Festival set to end in September, there are still a few events to take place – these include:

- The Ouse Washes Experience on Sunday 21 September allows for participation for all ages and abilities in a walk or cycle on pathways within the Fens that are not normally open to the public. This is a circular route starting in Welney Village and finishing at the WWT visitor centre in Welney, via Welches Dam. The event also offers the opportunity of doing a non-competitive duathlon comprising a 8.5km off road run followed by a 23.5km cycle ride. The entry cost is £25/head. For more information please contact the organisers: owe2014@outlook.com, phone on 07930 159930 or visit www.walk-run-cycle.org.uk
- Light Rider presents: Making the Move from Monday 22 to Friday 26 September between 6.30pm to 7.30pm. This a series of street projections to animate the skyline between the former Cambridge City Football Ground on Milton Road towards the club's current ground share at Histon and on towards its new future home. Moving images will be projected from a specially converted Dutch bike to be cycled along the route combining drawings by children from Milton Road Primary School with digital animation
- Cambridge to Norwich ride on Sunday 28 September is in its fourth year – taking riders from the university city 77 miles to the east. Entry fee is £24.50 per person and for more information go to www.bike-events.com.

The programme for the festival – available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/velofestival - lists a wide range of activities run by community organisations, local authorities and businesses between May and September to showcase cycling and French culture in Cambridgeshire.

Information will also be made available via Facebook: www.facebook.com/LeTourCambridge or Twitter: @LeTourCambridge

STUDENTS PRESERVE TO LEARN

Students are in a right pickle together having produced a range of chutneys they hope to sell through local organisations. The students with learning disabilities, were on the 'Preserve to Learn' project, which aims to provide skills for the workplace.

A number of local organisations who specialise in supporting adults with learning difficulties have worked together on the scheme, including Burwell Print, Darwin Nurseries, Prospects Trust and Red2Green. The initiative has been funded by the Skills Funding Agency via the Cambridgeshire County Council's Adult Learning Fund.

Adult Learning District Manager for Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "The students worked hard researching, planning and producing a range of chutneys and pickles and they tasting absolutely wonderful. The next stage is to start selling within their organisations. The scheme has involved a number of organisations working together who support adult with learning disabilities. Our key aim is to help the students gain confidence and workplace skills to help them achieve greater social independence."

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 2 – OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED

An outline planning application for Phase 2 of Northstowe has been submitted.

The application is for:

- 1) development of the main Phase 2 development area for up to 3,500 dwellings, two primary schools, secondary school, town centre including employment uses, formal and informal recreational space and landscaped areas, eastern sports hub, remainder of the western sports hub (to complete the provision delivered at Phase 1), busway, a primary road to link to the southern access, construction haul route, engineering and infrastructure works; and
- 2) construction of a highway link (Southern Access Road (West)) between the proposed new town of Northstowe and the B1050, improvements to the B1050, and associated landscaping and drainage.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCAM VICTIMS TO GET CASH BACK

A number of Cambridgeshire residents are receiving their money back this month after unwittingly responding to scam mail. Cambridgeshire's Trading Standards officers have joined forces with the National Trading Standards Scams Team, Police and Royal Mail to follow the trail of scams which trick residents into thinking they are due a big prize win if they pay a £5 administration fee or make a purchase from a treats catalogue.

Envelopes containing cheques, cash or personal bank details were seized and sent to the relevant local authority to return to their residents.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said "We are working with Cambridgeshire Police to return the items to residents and they'll also be reminded of the need to be cautious when sending money or bank details. Every year scams cause around £3.5 billion worth of detriment to UK victims - many of whom are our vulnerable or disadvantaged residents.

For further details on scams visit www.thinkjessica.com

To report a scam contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk

THIEVES TARGET BUSWAY TICKET MACHINES

Thieves have caused damage to ticket machines on the Busway after trying to steal cash. The machines had been emptied earlier leaving very little in the two machines at Histon and Longstanton for them to take.

Due to the extensive damage and the difficulty in getting replacement parts it has been decided to remove the facility to pay by cash at the machines. Passengers will still be able to pay by credit and debit card using the machines or with cash on the buses.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "Due to the extensive damage caused by the thieves passengers wishing to pay by cash will have to do so on the buses. Credit and debit cards will still be accepted at the ticket machines. We apologise for any inconvenience but this attack of vandalism has left us with no choice. While we would not encourage people to challenge these thieves we would like to thank the passer-by that stopped them at Longstanton and gave chase. If anyone has any information please contact the Police."

PLANNERS BACK PROPOSALS FOR ELY SOUTHERN BYPASS

Proposals to build a new southern bypass for Ely have been backed unanimously by Cambridgeshire County Council's Planning Committee. The proposals for a £1.7km long road, linking Angel Drove to Stuntney Causeway, was recommended for approval by the committee in September.

Members looked at the harm the new road would have on the historic surroundings and view of Ely Cathedral balanced with the economic, safety and transport improvements it would bring. On balance the committee members agreed the benefits outweighed the harm and that other alternative options were not as viable.

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles MP will now decide whether he wants to determine the plans himself. This follows the issuing of a so called 'holding direction' on behalf of the Secretary of State by the National Planning Casework Unit.

As stated in the letter to the Council, this direction did not prevent the authority from considering the application for the new road and forming a view as to the merits or, if minded refusing permission. As members were minded to support the scheme planning permission cannot be granted until the Secretary of State has ruled whether he wants to determine it himself.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor John Reynolds, Chairman of the Planning Committee, said: "There was a good debate over more than five hours where members listened closely to both critics and supporters of this scheme. There was no doubt that there was harm to the view of the Cathedral from certain areas. But it was also agreed by the committee that this harm was outweighed by the major benefits the scheme had both locally and regionally for the economy, safety and reducing congestion. The members also looked closely at the other options and found that these were not viable."

The holding direction was not unexpected as both supporters and opponents of the scheme have lobbied the Secretary of State. The County Council's planning department has kept the National Planning Casework Unit updated and had anticipated that a holding direction could be issued due to the complexity of the application.

Depending on the decision of the Secretary of State the application will either be determined by him or sent back to the County Council for a final decision.

PLANS FOR A NEW HOME FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARCHIVES

The new site in Ely was considered at the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee Plans are still at an early stage but it is hoped the new site, which would be an existing building refitted to accommodate the Council's archive collection would prove a more cost effective solution than a new build.

Graham Hughes, Cambridgeshire County Council's Executive Director, Economy, Transport and Environment said "We've been working hard to find a suitable new home for our Archives that's also good value for the Cambridgeshire tax payer. Ely has good transport links and is a rich part of Cambridgeshire's history. This new site, if approved, could not only meet our statutory requirements but it also offers wider scope to house other Council services at a fraction of the costs of previously considered options."

SUCCESSFUL STEPPING INTO SPORT

A year since it was launched, the Stepping Stone project has helped a number of people with disabilities, additional needs or long term health conditions to play sport.

The Stepping Stone scheme, funded by Sport England and Cambridgeshire County Council, works by providing one to one support and direct funding to so that individuals can take part in a sport of their choice.

There have been a number of examples over the last year, they include:

- * Lewis Speakman who had always wanted to join an archery club. With the support of Stepping Stone it has been possible for him to access training sessions that have built up his confidence to enable him to join as a full member. Lewis is now enjoying his archery alongside his team mates and is getting better with every session.
- * Luke from St Ives loves football and is regularly attending training sessions at his local football club and is looking forward to competing in local tournaments with the help of Stepping Stone. The club has not only given him the opportunity to take part in a sport he is passionate about but also a chance to socialise, make friends and interact with people with similar interests.
- * Quzheng Zhai (visually impaired) and Xiu Ying (suffers from mobility issues) from Cambridge wanted to start swimming regularly but were unsure if their needs could be accommodated. They are now swimming together on a regular basis and are making use of the specialised equipment to lower them into the water at their local pool.

Other sports Stepping Stone participants have been introduced to include clay pigeon shooting, hockey, wheelchair basketball, and horse riding.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "Stepping Stone helps people to play sport who in the past would not have had the confidence or opportunity to join a club. The project is open to anyone over the age of 14 and covers the full spectrum of disability and additional needs from severe physical or sensory impairment to mild learning difficulties.

"By working closely with clubs and ensuring the necessary training and inclusive provision is in place, the scheme has helped people to access sports and improve their physical fitness, as well as their confidence and general health and wellbeing by being part of a club with all the social benefits this brings. The project has made a real difference to so many lives, it's fantastic. The oldest recipient of Stepping Stone is 83 so it goes to show it is never too late to get involved."

Direct club bursaries are also now available to encourage new members to join and get involved as active participants, coaches, officials or simply as club volunteers. Funding is available until March 2015.

The Stepping Stone programme is delivered on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council by Action for Children.

Find out how we can help, contact the Stepping Stone Team on 01223 301756 or e-mail stepping.stone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk<<mailto:stepping.stone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>>.

Further information available at <http://www.cambridgeshire.net/organisation/stepping-stone/119222.aspx>.

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireCC or Twitter www.twitter.com/CambsCC

To give your points of view on any of these issues, contact me by email at; j.e.reynolds@ntlworld.com

As Your County Councillor I welcome hearing from you on these and/or any other issues that affect our community."

Yours *John Reynolds*

**County Report September 2014
Councillor John Reynolds**

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PARK & RIDE

There are actually 6 machines at Trumpington Park & Ride site in two separate areas close to the main building. Plans are afoot to increase this to 8 in total.

The ticket machine asks for a minimum of 3 characters. However, the more characters you put in the easier it finds your registration.

There are now over 1000 customers set up on the Bill Per Usage option online. This allows each customer to register once and set the system to automatically deduct from the users credit/debit card at the end of the month for the number of times they have used the car park. For regular and irregular users alike this is proving a popular choice.

Many of our users have made use of the online payment system at www.cambridgeparkandride.com either making their one-off payments before arriving at

the site, or setting up an account and choosing the bill per usage option which collates the number of uses in a month, bills you at the end and then deducts it from your card automatically. This means that concessionary passholders who do not require a ticket for travel can use the above option and go straight to the bus when they get to the car park.

We are looking to make changes to the system which will speed up the issuing of each ticket and at getting some additional ticket machines to assist with the peak time queue as well as speeding up the credit/debit card facility.

The system in place, although new to Cambridge, is in general use elsewhere in Europe, Oxford Park and Ride and many other private car parks around the country. Although we considered offering a park only option for customers, we found that many of our users like paying with a card for their bus tickets and this would require them to make two separate transactions. We also considered if a pay and display ticket system would work, but felt this was unfair on our customers who may need to walk some distance back to their car, before they then had to make another purchase for their tickets for the bus.

Cambridgeshire County Council briefing following the recent severe weather on the 8th, 9th and 10th August 2014.

Weather situation

A Flood Guidance Statement was issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre on the 8th August reporting a low likelihood of localised significant disruption from surface water flooding on Friday 8th as a result of heavy, slow moving showers from the aftermath of Hurricane Bertha. Impacts might include flooding of properties, significant travel disruption and longer journey times owing to localised flooding of roads.

Unfortunately the Flood Forecasting Centre's statement underestimated the severity of the weather conditions to follow, and over the next 72 hours areas in Cambridgeshire experienced unprecedented high rainfall. For example 102mm fell in the Bourne/Bar Hill area; 140mm fell in Oakington/Swavesey area; 60mm fell in Chatteris; 53mm fell in March, and 20mm fell over the rest of the county. In Cambridgeshire 46mm is the usual rainfall for the month of August.

It is estimated that 250 – 260 properties in Cambridgeshire were flooded internally. The areas worst affected include Bar Hill, Oakington, Wavesey, Caldecote, Longstanton and March.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Emergency Management Response

On the afternoon of the 8th August the Emergency Management Team working with the Fire and Rescue Service passed on details of the numerous reports of flooding in the March area. Throughout the afternoon and into the late evening there were numerous reports and requests for assistance for residential properties, nursing homes (one of which was evacuated), and impacts upon the road network including disruption on the A14 and A428. The worst affected areas were in Fenland and South Cambridgeshire. A multi-agency tactical co-ordination group meeting was held on Saturday 9th August and details from the meeting were shared with county council services.

Highways teams were mobilised to those areas most affected to distribute sandbags to prevent flooding from the highway, and undertake emergency works. Some of the District Councils also distributed sandbags. Emergency services also responded to properties that were flooding internally.

The impact in areas of the county over the weekend was substantial, but fortunately further significant rainfall in the county did not materialise enabling some of the flooding to abate and water to disperse.

Post flood event response

The main reason for the flooding was the unprecedented localised high rainfall that fell over the weekend concerned. That said, partners intend to investigate the causes of the flooding to ensure that any improvements that can be made are considered in the affected areas.

Following the flooding the Emergency Management Team coordinated an internal debrief with county council services on Tuesday 19th August, and a wider review with multi agency partners on Thursday 21st August. The findings from these discussions are now being developed in order to improve how the response to any future incident is managed. The Flood and Water Team has been working closely through the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP) to review the impacts of the flooding. Members of the CFRMP, including District Councils, Internal Drainage Boards, Anglian Water Services, the Environment Agency and highways, met to review the flooding, and make recommendations to try to reduce the flood risk where possible. This work is being overseen by the Flood and Water Team.

During the flood event, and after, County Council's highways team has been undertaking work to improve, as much as possible, the capacity of the drainage networks in the areas affected. Work has included jetting, gully and culvert cleansing, culvert root infestation removal, and drainage network investigations.

The Environment Agency recently coordinated a post flood drop in event for residents in Oakington. The event was also attended by key stakeholder's including the County Council. The Environment Agency is currently collating the information received from the event, and will be working with key stakeholders including the County Council on the next steps.

The County Council is intending to run a similar event in Bar Hill for the residents affected there. The Flood and Water Team is also working with partners to look at what improvements could be made to the watercourses running through Bar Hill to try to reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

An evening flood forum was held in Histon and Impington by the Parish Council and attend by Anglian Water Services and the County Council on the 21st August.

Separate formal investigations are being undertaken for all the areas that experienced internal property flooding. This work is being coordinated by the Flood and Water Team. As a part this work officers are working closely with those communities affected.

Ongoing flood risk management work

Since 2010 the Flood and Water Team, in partnership with colleagues in highways and others, has been undertaking flood prevention work in the County. This work has included Surface Water Management Plans, investigation and enforcement work to reduce flood risk, evaluating and consenting works on watercourses, and working with the Environment Agency, District Councils and Parish Councils on flood risk management schemes in the County. The Flood and Water Team also proactively encourages sustainable drainage schemes in new developments to reduce flood risk. The Team has been working closely with highways officers to undertake highway drainage schemes in vulnerable areas. All of the work we do involves extensive engagement with Parish Councils and members of the public. The Team provides an annual update on key work streams to the Council's Committee prior to it being submitted to DEFRA. The last update can be found here:

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/committee-document.aspx/cabinet-and-council/cabinet/2014-04-15/Reports/7266/140415-24.doc>

Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP)

Along with the formal investigations, the Flood and Water team is undertaking several SWMPs in Cambridgeshire. SWMPs are strategic documents that investigate flood risk in a given area, and suggest what mitigation measures can be put in place to reduce the flood risk. Several SWMPs are already being undertaken, but the list for future locations will reflect the areas affected by the recent flooding. Current areas include March, Godmanchester, Histon and Impington.

The Flood and Water team has requested that the Environment Agency add areas affected by the recent flooding to the Government's future 'medium term plan' for grant funding. This means that those areas will be earmarked for possible grant funding to undertake flood risk management work in the future.

Flood Insurance

The Association of British Insurers and the Government agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2013 on how to develop a not-for-profit scheme called 'Flood Re' that would ensure flood insurance remains widely affordable and available to properties that have flooded or are at risk of flooding. The MoU is a first step towards establishing Flood Re which should ensure affordable and widely available flood insurance in the UK.

LED solution

I do understand the questions being raised by members seeking to help identify ways in which we can reduce our ongoing revenue energy costs and I am sorry if Jamie's response didn't help. This is a subject that I have been reviewing in detail over the past 12 months.

In summary, we are already implementing an LED solution for all the County Council's illuminated signs and either a highly reflective or solar power solution for our bollards which will deliver a number of important financial savings to the Authority. Additionally, the PFI contract is flexible to change to an LED solution for our streetlights at any time of our choosing. If we were to change all our streetlights to an LED light source today, we would be able to save approximately £396k a year at today's costs. However, we estimate, it would cost in the region of £16M to implement at today's costs which means that it would still take about 40 years to pay for itself (without any interest or PFI charges) and therefore we don't believe we are at the right point to change now as it doesn't appear to be a cost effective solution yet.

It is a slightly more complex subject but I will try to explain this in more detail below to explain the reasons for this in terms of potential savings and estimated costs.

Potential Savings

At today's costs, the existing PFI Contract solution will result in annual energy costs to the County Council of approximately £1.1M. This is a 46% reduction from the £2M cost our energy bill would have been if we didn't have the PFI. We estimate the energy reductions in an LED solution would generate additional annual savings of approximately £400k. This saving is much less than other Authorities are announcing as they are starting from a different position than us. If we didn't have the PFI we would have a similar starting point to other local Authorities in upgrading to LED and we could have delivered £1.3M energy savings from our existing £2M cost. This would have been a 65% saving. However, we are starting from a position which has already delivered 46% savings so a change to LED would only bring us approximately 36% savings from where we are. Therefore the additional implementation costs of upgrading now has to be balanced against the £400k saving we would achieve now and not the original £1.3M saving.

Estimated Costs

If we were to choose an LED solution for our streetlights it is, unfortunately, not as simple as if we decide to change our light bulbs at home. Currently, for a streetlight, we would have to change the whole lantern head at the top of the column as there is no solution currently available to just change the light itself. Whilst the costs for this have significantly

reduced from around £600 a unit in 2010 to between £322 and £500 a unit depending upon type, height and location, we would still have approximately 56,000 units to change. Balfour Beatty have agreed that there would be no additional labour or maintenance costs for changing the specification on those units yet to be upgraded but there would be a labour cost to replace all the units we have already upgraded (we have just completed 50% of the upgrade programme). Additionally, the 28,500 new lanterns we have recently installed would still have ongoing costs to pay for but which would now be discarded. It is therefore estimated that the cost of changing all our lanterns to LED would cost an additional £16M on top of the existing PFI Contract charges. If we were to borrow this amount we would also have to pay interest charges on top.

Opportunities

In order to verify that my figures are correct I have engaged with the Green Investment Bank, which is a funding mechanism Central Government has set up to help local Authorities fund streetlighting upgrades. They have confirmed that the figures above are correct and, because we are already delivering a low energy solution which will deliver 46% savings across our whole network, have agreed that it does not appear financially viable for the Authority to change to an LED solution right now. However, we have identified that there may still be an option with a better return rate in changing our traffic routes to an LED solution. Our traffic routes make up about 19% of our network and illuminate our heaviest use roads, (81% of the network is on residential roads). These lights are our biggest and brightest and use the most energy (about 40% in total). Therefore we are currently reviewing options with the Bank to see if there may be a more financially viable solution to upgrade these streetlights on our traffic routes. Balfour Beatty are helping us in this review and we have recently provided the GIB with our inventory details and they are preparing to run a number of options through their financial model for us shortly to see if this is something we can build into our Business Planning work for the future. I will be more than happy to share the results from this analysis with members as soon as I receive them if this would help.

I trust this explanation will help Members understand the LED position better but should you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Regards

Can you help with answering this question from residents in Bar Hill and Girton

I have a letter from the MP saying that low-noise tarmac will be applied to the widened A14, is this correct and how long has low-noise tarmac been used on these sections of the A14.

Can you confirm that this will include all areas that affect Bar Hill and Girton.

I have been speaking with my colleagues in NDD regarding your request in relation to low noise tarmac.

Having conferred with Mark Saunders who is project managing the Pinchpoint scheme, I can confirm that the new lane will be surfaced in a low noise surface, TSCS (Thin Surface Course System). In addition they are also completing some extensive patching to the existing two lanes through the section which will also use a TSCS.

Having liaised with the Asset Manager, Renewal of Roads East of England, he has advised that 60% of the length of the carriageway between Bar Hill and Girton has TSCS.

In relation to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon proposed improvements I can confirm that TCSC will be applied.

Dear Councillor Reynolds,

I write in regards to our conversation at the Dry Dryton consultation yesterday. I have reviewed the email relating to the points raised by Patricia Gillespie and work being undertaken in regards to noise and pollution in Girton cutting.

In relation to non motorised provision, we have given careful consideration to the requirements of non motorised users during design development. Based on feedback received throughout this consultative exercise we are currently meeting with non-motorised representatives to discuss issues being raised. I can confirm that the points that Patricia Gillespie expressed have been formally captured.

Turning to the work relating to the noise and pollution in Girton cutting I can confirm the following:

The current consultation drawings show indicative locations for noise barriers based on our preliminary work.

- We have done preliminary noise modelling to provide indicative locations for noise mitigation
- We are taking actual measurements to validate our model
- We are in the middle of update modelling with the latest traffic data
- We will do final modelling in July to refine mitigation proposals

Furthermore it may interest you to know that the findings of the air quality assessments will be reported in the Environment Statement. The Environmental Statement is one of a suite of documents that comprises the Development Consent Order application.

I have also emailed Karl Brooks and Mike Evans regarding the Bar Hill junction and the access for non motorised users ahead of your attendance at exhibitions next week.

Kind regards

Girton News

A full report on outstanding issues from the County Council is available by email from j.e.reynolds@ntlworld.com

"Your District Councillors welcome hearing from you on these and/or any other issues that affect our community."

Another ending I have used is:

"Your District Councillors are here to help you. Please feel free to contact us with comments, questions or concerns. We hope we can help but, if not we probably know a [wo]man who can."

At the end of emails/letters to residents I usually say:

"Thank you for contacting me on this particular subject. The views of residents are extremely important to me so please do not hesitate to contact me in the future on this or any other local issue"

County Report 2014

Councillor John Reynolds

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Your local Conservative team is here to help – if you have any issues, please contact me on: 4 Hollytrees, Bar Hill, CB23 8SF. Tel 01954 200571. J.E.Reynolds@Ntlworld.com

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Yours,Bunty Waters

Cllr for the Bar Hill Ward

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Yours,Bunty Waters , South Cambridgeshire District Councillor

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